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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday October 28, 1976 CI NIDC 76-252C

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday October 28, 1976.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR: Bumper Harvest Announced

25X1 [ ] The bumper Soviet grain harvest announced by General Secretary Brezhnev Monday should give the USSR more flexibility in satisfying domestic needs and arranging its grain trade.

25X1 [ ] Brezhnev reported that this year's grain crop would "either very closely approach the figures of the record year 1973, or even surpass it." This suggests that total grain output will be 222 million tons or more. Brezhnev indicated that 216 million tons had already been harvested--76 million tons above the disastrous harvest of 1975. A harvest of 220 to 225 million tons will provide the economy with a much needed boost:

--Livestock herds, which were reduced and put on short rations, can be rebuilt toward the long-run goal of putting more meat in the consumers' diet.

--Grain reserves, depleted by two years of declining production, can be rebuilt by 5 to 10 million tons.

--The quality of a variety of bread products can be improved.

The USSR now has the options of curtailing additional grain purchases, exporting some grain to the West, and shipping more to traditional clients in the Communist countries.



25X1 [ ] The Soviets reportedly may sell some barley to West European traders, who have offered to buy 3 to 4 million tons "at very attractive prices." The USSR, however, must balance its desire to earn hard currency with the repeated demands for additional grain from Eastern Europe.

25X1 [ ] Despite the bumper grain crop, total farm output should rise by only about 1.5 percent this year because of a sharp decline in livestock production. Agricultural growth is far from the 8.5 percent rebound planned this year and will continue to depress the growth of gross national product. Nevertheless, the good crop will reduce the amount of hard currency needed to pay for agricultural imports and allow a considerable improvement in the livestock sector in 1977. [ ]

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RHODESIA: Geneva Conference

25X1 [ ] Rhodesia's rival black nationalist leaders and Prime Minister Smith's delegation representing the white minority government begin formal negotiations in Geneva today with their positions still far apart.

25X1 [ ] The four nationalist leaders--Joshua Nkomo, Robert Mugabe, Ndabaningi Sithole, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa--have taken a tough line in public calling for an immediate transfer of effective power to the blacks. Smith, on the other hand, is still claiming that the settlement terms he announced in September, which would give the whites significant power during the transition period, are "non-negotiable."

25X1 [ ] The black leaders are trying to play down their own differences. Nkomo and Muzorewa, who have little military support, probably believe that the conference must succeed if they are to have a chance at power in a black Rhodesian government. They may feel it necessary to adopt a tough position, however, to protect themselves from charges of selling out black interests.

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[REDACTED] If the negotiations get to the point of discussing the specifics of setting up an interim government, conflicting interests and ambitions are likely to intensify the rivalry among the nationalist leaders. There is no indication that the blacks have agreed on how positions in an interim government would be divided up among them.

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[REDACTED] The "front-line" African countries, which have significant economic and political stakes in a Rhodesian settlement, have sent observers to Geneva. Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Botswana apparently will try to prevent a falling out among the nationalists, //although the four countries do not agree on a candidate to lead a black Rhodesian government.//

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[REDACTED] Smith, for his part, apparently hopes to retain a significant personal political role in Rhodesia, at least through any transition period. Smith wants to appear reasonable at the conference, but there is little sign of much give in his public position on a settlement. He clearly hopes to strengthen his bargaining position by dealing with the more moderate nationalists--Nkomo and Muzorewa--and splitting them away from Mugabe and Sithole.

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[REDACTED] The Prime Minister will undoubtedly be influenced toward moderation at Geneva by his knowledge that the South Africans strongly favor a negotiated settlement. [REDACTED]

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[redacted] The success of the conference may depend in large part on the skill of the British chairman in keeping the parties talking. //The nationalists and the "front-line" countries are pressing the British to take a firm hand in the talks and to play a major role in the interim government.//

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[redacted]

#### USSR: Kosygin's Health

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[redacted] Premier Kosygin's illness evidently prevented him from delivering the report on the five-year plan to the Supreme Soviet yesterday.

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[redacted] Kosygin, however, attended the Supreme Soviet session, as did all the leaders. The Premier was active during the recent visit of Mongolian leader Tsedenbal, and observers have noted no visible signs of illness.

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[redacted] For the first time under General Secretary Brezhnev, State Planning Committee Chairman Baybakov made the report. By passing over First Deputy Premier Mazurov, the leadership again showed that it was unwilling to give any public sign that a younger member may be in line for a top post. [redacted]

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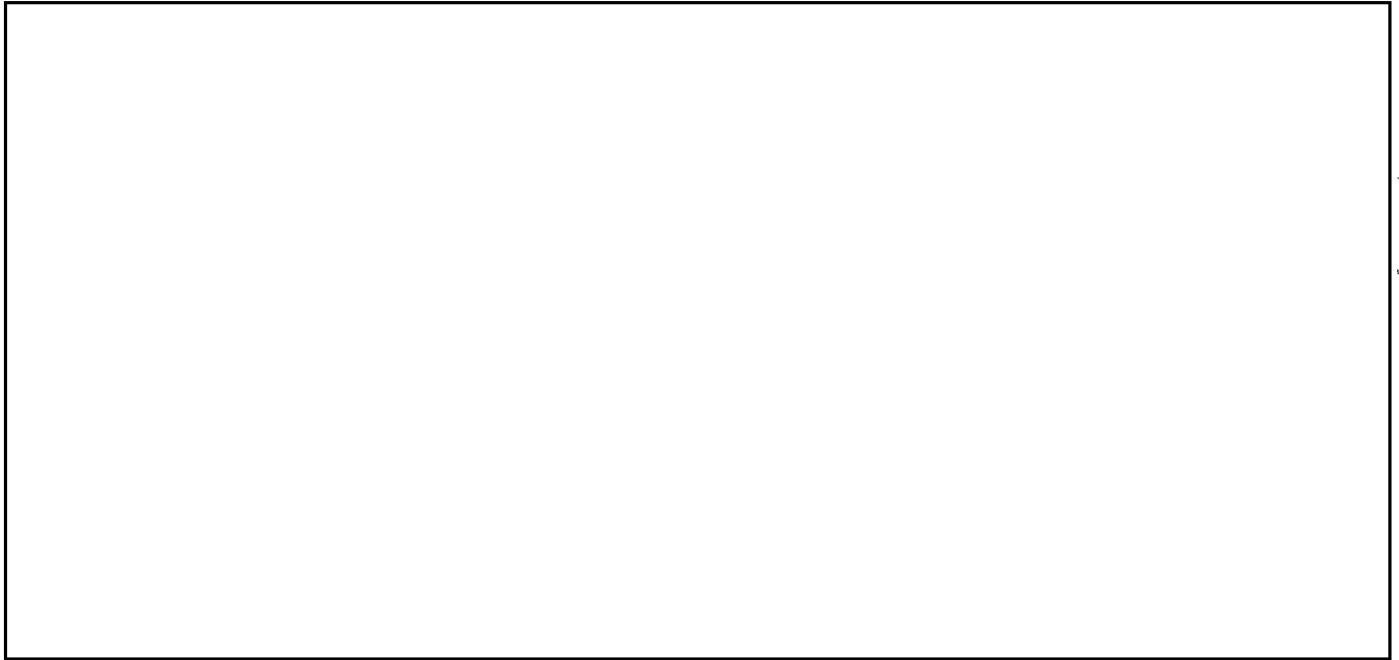
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POLAND: Soothing the Sullen

25X1 [ ] The Polish regime announced last Saturday that a broad range of consumer goods will be imported during the fourth quarter of this year. The government probably hopes this will temporarily placate the restive Polish consumers, who will be watching skeptically to see how many supplies actually reach the market.

25X1 [ ] At the top of the list is a \$38-million purchase of 32,000 metric tons of meat and 10,000 tons of lard. Additional imports will include 2,000 tons of frozen fish and 267,000 refrigerators from the USSR, leather coats from Yugoslavia, cloth from Italy, and other luxury items.

25X1 [ ] Even with additional imports and sharply curtailed exports, meat supplies will not improve significantly. In fact, there will be less meat available in the stores during the next two months than was available in the comparable period last year. Increased imports of luxury goods should, however, siphon off some of the excess demand for meat.

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25X1 [ ] In addition to the meat shortages, Polish consumers may find this a cold and dark winter. For several weeks, the leadership and the press have been urging citizens to use coal and electricity sparingly. Despite record production of both, electric power is already being rationed to some industrial plants, and there is much grumbling from angry citizens about the shortage of coal. [ ]

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#### YUGOSLAVIA: Foreign Visitors

25X1 [ ] Yugoslavia has rescheduled a state visit by French President Giscard for "early December," according to an official announcement. Planning for a visit by Soviet party leader Brezhnev is also apparently under way.

25X1 [ ] The visit by Giscard was originally postponed in September because, according to Belgrade, Tito was suffering from a serious liver ailment. Since then, Tito has made only infrequent public appearances and has received no foreign guests.

25X1 [ ] While the diplomatic formalities and scheduling are being worked out, the Yugoslavs will be preparing for the usual rash of speculation that follows the announcement of an important Soviet visit. They will make much of Giscard's visit as a counter to those who will see Brezhnev's arrival as a Yugoslav "drift" eastward.

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URUGUAY: Opposition to President

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[ ] President Aparicio Mendez, who was selected by the military just two months ago to preside over the country for the next five years, is encountering strong opposition from the leaders who put him in office. Chances are a little better than even that he will remain as president for as long as a few more months.

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[ ] The US embassy reports there were widespread rumors last week that Mendez had been ousted or was about to be. On October 15, Mendez did have a long meeting with all of the senior military leaders. Although there are several versions of what transpired, the argument that the military would look foolish changing presidents so soon apparently won Mendez a reprieve.

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[ ] At another meeting last week, military leaders are said to have discussed methods for muzzling Mendez and restricting further his freedom of action. A consensus seems to have been reached, since Mendez told the press over the weekend that he had "decided to refrain from making statements and to say something only when it might be justified by the importance of the matter."

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[ ] Many military leaders were opposed to Mendez' selection in the first place, and more have become disenchanted with him because his government has done little since taking office. Mendez is not entirely to blame, however, because he is merely a front for the 21 generals who rule Uruguay under an ineffective collegial form of government. [ ]

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